

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO APRIL 16, 2024

Church Phone: 740-345-6115 Web Site: <www.stpaulselca.org>



Cell phone: 586.864.4004

Pastor: Martin P. Gehring

Office Hours: M T W 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. or by appointment

Congregation Council President: Jerry Young

Office Secretary: Jodie Nickles

Church Phone: 740-345-6115

Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Web Site: www.stpaulselca.org

Bible For Sale

Dear God,

Since you gave the first chapter to your publisher, Moses, some 4000 years ago, your book, “The Bible” has been reproduced (not counting the first one, which Moses dropped) some 5 billion-7 billion times; a publishing miracle by any standard. Take that, J. K. Rowling!

I’m not normally one to offer advice to such an accomplished author. It is hard to argue with success! However, you should have taken the time to have it copyrighted. That little “©” could have saved a whole lot of trouble.

For example, when you first published, capital letters, vowels, and punctuation had not yet been invented. Imagine, now, if you will, typing the sentence “Let’s eat, Grandma!” You can see the problem. And even when punctuation, etc. did come along, it was a crap-shoot as to where it ended up.

And then there were problems with translation. The Bible went through countless translations, each more confusing than the last. The British took a good whack of forcing everyone to read their own King James version – nearly succeeded too! However, as of this writing there are still over 2000 different translations out there.

And don’t get me started on reproduction! Before the invention of the printing press, elderly monks were copying out your Bible by hand. Now, I don’t know about you, but I can hardly address an envelope without getting it wrong, let alone the 800,000 words found in the Bible. Imagine some of the unholy words invented by the monk who finished up only to

find a misspelled word in the second chapter of Genesis!

We eventually worked out the kinks, and Bibles, mostly accurate, are now flying off printing presses at an unprecedented rate. And how much are you making from all this success? Nadda. Not a cent. Your failure to copyright means anyone, and I mean *anyone*, can come along and start selling their own version to squeeze a few more dollars out of those who, inexplicably, aren't content with any of the 80,000 other versions vying for shelf space. From Thomas Jefferson's cut-and-paste deist bible to Donald Trump's "God Bless the U. S. A." bible (complete with the U. S. Constitution, Pledge of Allegiance, and the rousing chorus to Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U. S. A!"), there seems no end to those seeking to make money selling *your* words.

But it's too late to do anything about it now. Perhaps you could write a sequel? (Unedited! Uncut! With never-before-seen wonders and miracles!) Only this time GET THE COPYRIGHT, and maybe we can restore a little dignity to this whole enterprise.

God bless you all! Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Dee Altmaier, Leah Yost, Judy VanOster.

Ongoing: Patricia Shields

(In order to keep our worship prayer list current, prayer requests will be included in Sunday worship for three weeks, after which they will be printed in the bulletin as an "ongoing" request. After six weeks, names will be removed unless a request is made to renew them.)

If you need an address for anyone or wish to add someone to the list, please call the office.



THE WHEN'S AND THE WHERE'S – let the office know if something needs to be added to the list below!

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS - Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment.**

- **Sunday School for all after church. See Ruth Graham , Sally Finck (ssfinck@yahoo.com) or Thelma Trainor (ttrainor@roadrunner.com) for details.**
- ***Tuesday Lessons*** – A discussion led by Pastor Martin of the lessons to be read for the coming weekend starts at 5:30 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge.
- ***Friday Night Game Nights*** –meets on the 3rd Friday night of the month at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge! Interested? Bring your favorite game and come join the fun!
- ***The Land of Legend Fly Fisherman*** meet in Danford Hall on the second, third and fourth Mondays of each month at 7 p.m.
- ***ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB*** meets the third Monday evening of each month at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge. May's book is "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See.
- ***AA*** meets every Saturday morning at 11 a.m. in Danford Hall and on Tuesdays and Fridays at noon.
- ***NA*** meets on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. in Danford Hall.
- ***Friday Fellowship Bible Study*** meets every Friday morning at 10 a.m. in Weisgerber Lounge.
- ***Ruth Circle meets next on May 8th at 10:00 a.m.*** in Danford Hall.
- ***Church Council will meet April 29th at 7 p.m.***
- ***Matthew's Kitchen*** meets on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
- ***Grief Group*** meets on the 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. They meet next on May 8th.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH! May 19th is Pentecost, the official birthday of the Christian church. To celebrate, we will be having cake and coffee after the service on Sunday. Stop in and join us!

SHUT-INS – If you are in need of pastoral care, a friendly visit, or would like communion brought to your home, please contact the office and leave a message with Jodie between the hours of 10 and 2. Thanks!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME to experience the fellowship we offer by joining us in the lobby of the educational building each week. A sign up is available for those who can help provide goodies. Coffee donations are always appreciated.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS! The food pantry collection barrel is currently located across from the office. ***The needs for this month are jellies and soups. Please no clothing items.*** As always, all donations are welcome. If you wish to give a monetary donation, mark your offering envelope designated to the “Food Pantry”.

ARE YOU GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE? – The Grief Group meets on the 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 in Danford Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Jean Hovland. The group **meets next on May 8th**.

Unapproved March 25, 2024 Council Minutes

Congregation Council Minutes March 25, 2024

Present: Pastor Martin, Kerrill Foster, Jerry Depalmo, Jim Rengert, Sadie Smith, Jerry Young Excused: Mary Billy, Greta Blegvad, Sally Finck, John Grangaard

Kerrill Foster gave the Treasurer’s Report. Jim moved to accept, Jerry D. seconded. Motion approved. Kerrill has been exploring options for online giving. She is planning to invest some funds in CD’s to earn interest.

Jim reported about the rental properties. The Hudson Avenue house has been leased after major renovations and cleaning. Thanks go to Jim, Diane Ganz, and Julie Hippen for all their hard work getting the house ready. An open house is planned for April 13 and 14, times to be announced. The new renters are moving in on the 15th.

Jerry D. has donated smart locks for all of the church’s rental properties.

Pastor Martin presented his report. He is planning to work on creating a picture directory. He will also be going through the office stuff to see what needs to stay and what can go and will be looking for things that can go in the rummage sale on April 19 & 20. New light bulbs have been installed in the sanctuary. They were purchased with some of the money willed to St. Paul's by Gladys Schoffner. A representative from the Coalition of Care will be at the next council meeting.

Volunteer opportunities for various needs at St. Paul's will be posted in the coming weeks. The next meeting will be April 29, 2024, at 7 P.M. The meeting closed with prayer. Respectfully submitted, Sadie Smith

May Birthdays

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 - Charles Cooperider | 12 - Kristine Wiersma | 22 - Ben DeBacco |
| Michelle Kennard | 14 - June Whiteside | Christopher Wiersma |
| Michael Slebodnik | 15 - Judy Rauch | 23 - Nancy Berg |
| 2 - Donald Miller | 16 - Addyson Jones | John Seabright |
| Carys Williams | 18 - Sandra Chorpenning | 24 - Jim Rengert (85) |
| 3 - Janet Gall (81) | Oren Stamper | Louise Shiels |
| 4 - Lindsay Freytag | Beverly Swinehart | 25 - Shirley Campbell (89) |
| John Leber | 19 - Margaret Marx | 26 - Connor Mumaw |
| 5 - Logan Hacker | Danette Smitley | Amber Thatcher |
| 7 - Jade Wilson | David Trainor | Claudia VanWinkle |
| Ella Young | 20 - Sally Finck | 27 - Connor Carpenter |
| 8 - Dixie Dunlap | Andy Grangaard | Paul Kerr, Jr. |
| 10 - Hayleigh Trainor | Adam Green | Liam Peterson |
| 11 - Jarred Chorpenning | 21 - Jim Casto (83) | 28 - Milton Holman (91) |
| Kristin Hoskinson | | 29 - Jocelyn Brown |

May Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 - Carl & Danette Smitley (48) | 18 - George & Penny Coleman (50) |
| 8 - Roger & Traci Dupler (31) | 19 - Doug & Nancy Berg (28) |
| 9 - Jason & Heidi Bragg (26) | 22 - Richard & Emily Larson (48) |
| Edward & Sheila Carpenter (32) | 25 - Dan & Cheri Fischer (39) |
| 14 - Ron & Vicky Crist (42) | 26 - Hank & Tammy Trites (34) |
| | 28 - Paul, Jr. & Mary Kerr (41) |
| | Kendell & Jeff Stotts (8) |

Sunday Volunteers for May 2024

Position	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Cantor	Dustin Hill	Juli Rauch	Tim Jordan	Ruth Gehring
Lector	Jerry Young	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Elizabeth Kleinknecht	Sadie Smith
Com. Assistant	Mandy John	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Greta Blegvad	Mary Billy
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Don Miller, Jerry Young, Charles Cooperider
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED While St. Paul's often has a need for volunteers for specific projects, like Easter season bread baking or the rummage sale, there are also roles for which we look to volunteers on a more recurring basis. These include:

- *Altar preparation/Sacristan*
- *Cantor*
- *Communion assistant*
- *Lector*
- *Food pantry deliveries*
- *Sunday coffee setup/cleanup*
- *Outreach to shut-ins/ congregational care*
- *Streaming worship services*
- *Landscape maintenance*
- *Spring cleaning*
- *Sunday school teacher*
- *Usher*
- *Preparing/mailing the 'Forward'*
- *Funeral luncheon/kitchen assistance*

Even if you can just help once every month or two, that would be great. If you would be interested in assisting with any of these tasks, or just want more information, please contact the church office at (740) 345-6115 or speak to a council member.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 3/3/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 7,394.00	\$43,540.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 11
Benevolence	<u>250.00</u>	<u>1,268.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. 59
Total	\$7,644.00	\$ 44,808.00	Weds. <u>30</u>
			Total 100

Received 3/10/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 4,611.00	\$48,151.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 11
Benevolence	<u>40.00</u>	<u>1,308.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. 60
Total	\$4,651.00	\$ 49,459.00	Weds. <u>30</u>
			Total 101

Received 3/17/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 1,792.00	\$49,943.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 11
Benevolence	<u>27.00</u>	<u>1,335.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. 64
Total	\$1,819.00	\$ 51,278.00	Weds. <u>28</u>
			Total 103

Received 3/24/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 3,045.00	\$52,988.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 13
Benevolence	<u>50.00</u>	<u>1,385.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. 62
Total	\$3,095.00	\$ 54,373.00	Weds. <u>28</u>
			Total 103

Received 3/31/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 4,000.00	\$56,988.00	Sun. 10 a.m. 110
Benevolence	<u>220.00</u>	<u>1,605.00</u>	Maundy Thurs 42
Total	\$4,220.00	\$ 58,593.00	Good Friday <u>37</u>
			Total 189

Funds for the new lighting in the church were provided by the estate of Gladys Schoffner. Thank you Thrivent Choice members, for your donations to St. Paul's!

Thrive! Campaign \$29,175 Pledged \$1,228 Paid in 2024
\$23,354 paid in total. \$5,821 outstanding pledges

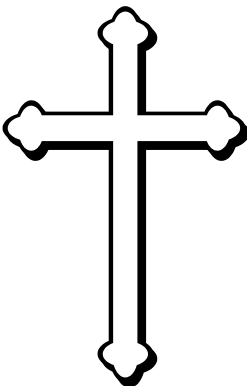
Income for Operations as of March 31, 2024	\$59,330.16
Total Operating Expenses as of March 31, 2024	<u>-62,812.01</u>
Deficit	(\$ 3,481.85)

THE FORWARD April 16, 2024
St. Pauls Ev. Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street
Newark, OH 43055-5031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Newark, OH 43055
Permit Number 117

**SUNDAY
SCHEDULE**
Traditional Worship
10 a.m.



**SATURDAY
WORSHIP**
4 p.m. year-round

*"The Mission of St. Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran
Church is to **SHARE**, at all
times and with all people,
the Good News of **GOD'S
GRACE**, through
CHRIST JESUS."*